

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., in his official capacity
as President of the United States, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No: 5:21-cv-01136-F

**DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF RESCISSION OF
DOD COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENT**

Pursuant to this Court's order, ECF No. 70, Defendants file this notice to inform the Court that on January 10, 2023, the Secretary of Defense implemented Section 525 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 ("NDAA"). *See* Pub. L. No. 117-263, § 525 (Dec. 23, 2022), 136 Stat 2395. Section 525 of the NDAA directs the Secretary, within 30 days, to rescind the August 2021 memorandum requiring vaccination of service members for COVID-19.

Pursuant to the NDAA, the Secretary of Defense issued a memo on January 10, 2023, rescinding his August 24, 2021 memorandum which required COVID-19 vaccination, and rescinding his November 30, 2021 memorandum which required COVID-19 vaccination for members of the National Guard and the Ready Reserve. *See* 1/10/2023 SECDEF Memo ("Rescission Memo") (attached as Ex. 1).

The Rescission Memo prohibits separations based solely on refusal of the COVID-19 vaccine by service members who sought an exemption. *Id.* The Rescission Memo

further directs the Services to update the records of individuals currently serving to remove any adverse actions solely associated with the denial of an accommodation request. *Id.* The Rescission Memo also halts the processing of requests for exemption to the now-defunct mandate. *Id.*

Dated: January 11, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

ANTHONY J. COPPOLINO
Deputy Director

CHRISTOPHER R. HALL
CARLOTTA P. WELLS
Assistant Directors

/s/ Zachary A. Avallone
STEVEN A. MYERS
ANDREW E. CARMICHAEL
Senior Trial Counsels
ZACHARY A. AVALLONE
(D.C. Bar No. 1023361)
JOSEPH J. DEMOTT
COURTNEY D. ENLOW
CODY T. KNAPP
R. CHARLIE MERRITT
KENZIE K. OVERING
Trial Attorneys

United States Department of Justice
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch
1100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 514-2705
E-mail: zachary.a.avallone@usdoj.gov

Counsel for Defendants